

OBITUARY

WILLIAM DONALD PATTERSON, JR., 1905-1980

William Donald Patterson, Jr., a sustaining member of the Lepidopterists' Society since 1953, died suddenly at his home in Atherton, California on 3 March 1980. Don's interest in Lepidoptera was avocational. He was interested in field work and in the support of studies of the butterfly and skipper fauna of Baja California, Mexico, and he further supported field work of students with other entomological projects in this area.

Don was born on 1 July 1905, in San Francisco, California. The first of three sons of William Donald Patterson and May Bird Patterson, he was raised in Centerville (now part of Fremont) and attended Piedmont High School. He graduated from Harvard University with an A.B. degree in Mining Engineering in 1927 and from Stanford University with an M.A. degree from the Graduate School of Business in 1930. In 1938 he was married to Dorothy Eden Wilcox.

Don, a third-generation Californian, a rancher and investor, operated the 3000 acre Patterson Ranch near Newark, Alameda Co., as well as a 10,000 acre cattle ranch near Livermore. His grandfather, George W. Patterson, came to California from Indiana in 1849 to join in the search for gold, and shortly thereafter bought a portion of the Spanish land grant—Rancho de los Potreros de los Cerritos, which is now a part of the city of Fremont. The proximity of the ranch to San Francisco Bay permitted, in earlier days, the shipment of livestock and produce (especially wheat) by shallow draft schooners from a nearby slough to the port of San Francisco. The Livermore Ranch was acquired at a later time and has now become divided by the Lake Del Valle State Recreational Area, the establishment of which Don supported. Presently, this is a very popular aquatic recreational area; even though, as his son Bill recalls, this once was a beautiful valley with a sycamore lined creek. Thomas W. Davies remembers this area as the habitat of a large population of *Speyeria callippe* near *comstocki* (Gunder), which still occurs in smaller numbers on the slopes of the surrounding hills. The ranch is the type locality for the glyptiperygid, *Choreutis apocynoglossa* Heppner (1976, Pan-Pacific Entomol., 52(3):256-262). In the early 1970's Don was interested in donating a portion of the ranch's oak woodland as a preserve, but unfortunately, there was no institutional support available for its establishment.

Don was an outdoors person, who began to collect butterflies and moths in his teens. He acquired some of the Lepidoptera books of his time—by Wright, Holland, McGlashan, and others, and he purchased specimens as well from a dealer in Hope, Arkansas. These collections became inactive and were stored in an attic. In the early 1950's his interest was renewed when his son Bill began collecting butterflies (the boy also discovered and salvaged specimens from the stored collections). In 1953 Don joined the Lepidopterists' Society as a sustaining member.

Don and Bill attended the 1954 Pacific Slope meetings of the society, in San Francisco, at the California Academy of Sciences. In 1955, Don was Secretary *Pro. Tem.* to the Second Pacific Slope meetings held at San Diego. At the Santa Barbara meetings in 1958 he presented an invited paper on the butterflies of the Sierra San Pedro Martir. It was during this period through contact with Dr. Jerry A. Powell, Charles F. Harbison, and others, that his interest in Baja California butterflies was kindled (strengthened by his basic love of the peninsula). In late May and early June 1958, Dr. Powell, Bill Patterson, and Don made a 90 mile journey by foot, with mules carrying their gear, into the Sierra San Pedro Martir, Baja California Norte. Theirs was the first group of lepidopterists to explore the high tablelands with its coniferous forests. An interesting account of this exploration and record of species collected was published by Don & Powell (1960, J. Lepid. Soc., 13(4):229-235).

Don participated in over 20 trips into both the northern and southern states of Baja California, many of these for the purpose of collecting Lepidoptera. Most of the field work was undertaken before the present paved road was built, so that the country was rugged to explore. The trips were made by jeep, horseback, or by hiking and using



WILLIAM DONALD PATTERSON, JR., 1905–1980.
(Photography by F. Ramsdell Cummings.)

pack animals. Trip participants included his wife Dorothy, his son Bill, Dr. Ira L. Wiggins (on three trips), Joe Donohoe (on three trips), Dr. Powell, Dr. John T. Doyen, Sigurd L. Szerlip, Herman G. Real, and Colonel Forde. Joe Donohoe recalls Don's speciality of making soda biscuits in a reflector oven. Several thousand butterflies and skippers were collected as a result of the field work. Don was particularly pleased with the discovery and the patronym of *Erynnis tristis pattersoni* Burns (1964, Univ. Calif. Publ. Entomol., 37:143), and the co-discovery with Powell of *Apodemia mormo dileuca* Opler & Powell (1962, J. Lepid. Soc., 15(3):167–168). The *Erynnis* was collected in May 1959, in the Sierra de la Victoria, Baja California del Sur, and the *Apodemia* in May 1958, in the Sierra San Pedro Martir. More recently the scorpion, *Vaejovis pattersoni* Williams & Haradon, was described (1980, Occ. Pap. Calif. Acad. Sci., 135:65–66).

Don was interested in sponsoring research on the skippers and butterflies of Baja California, even though he did not anticipate publishing in this field himself. He hoped that such studies would contribute to a better understanding of the origin and relationships of the fauna of this peninsula. Arrangements were made in May 1969, to finance a post-doctoral position at the California Academy of Sciences with his commitment to provide a stipend for the first year of this study. A candidate for the position was selected, but at the last moment, that person decided otherwise. Starting in 1970,

Herman G. Real, then a student at San Jose State University, received partial support for several years, during which time he completed both his A.B. and M.A. degrees. His research focused on this region, and a large illustrated manuscript entitled "The Distribution of Skippers and Butterflies in Baja California, Mexico," was completed. This manuscript will be edited for publication in the near future.

Don also provided "seed money" to aid students in field work in Baja California. Small grants, usually of about \$500 each, were awarded through the California Academy of Sciences or the Explorers' Club. Between 1974 and 1979 the following persons received such awards (including the year and topic of research): Richard M. Haradon (1974, Scorpions); Warren E. Savary (1975, Solpugida); Dr. David B. Weissman (1977 and 1978, Orthoptera); Eric M. Fisher (1977, Diptera: Asilidae; in 1978, for field work at Barro Colorado Island, Panama); and Gay C. Hunter (1979, Diptera: Bombyliidae). In 1976 he provided the funds needed by the Academy to purchase the Robert G. Wind collection of North American butterflies (made available through the interest of Mrs. Clo Carroll).

Don was a very thoughtful man and an active person with many interests. He served as 80th president of the Society of California Pioneers in 1966-67. He served on the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Zoological Society and participated in a 1970 expedition to Nepal to collect an Indian Rhinoceros. This expedition utilized elephant transportation, and collections of butterflies were also made at this time. He also served on the Boards of Directors of the English Speaking Union of San Francisco and of the Leslie Salt Company. Don also held memberships in the Pacific Union Club of San Francisco and the Explorers' Club of New York and London. He was a West Coast Director of the San Francisco chapter of the Explorers' Club. In addition, Don was a Field Associate and Fellow (elected in 1971) of the California Academy of Sciences, a Vesterman of the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Menlo Park, and a member of the Atherton Town Planning Commission for 15 years. During the last 10 years, Don and his wife Dorothy spent each May in London, where they resided in the Sloane Square area. Don was a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and a member of both the English Speaking Union of London and the Zoological Society of London. During the Second World War, he oversaw work at the Joshua Hendy Iron Works of Sunnyvale, California.

Don is survived by his wife, Dorothy, Atherton, California, and 5 children: William D. Patterson, III, Sacramento; Wilcox Patterson, Woodside; George N. Patterson, Palo Alto; Mrs. Gerald Green, Ashland, Oregon; and Mrs. Eden Patterson, Jamestown, Tennessee; four grandchildren; and a brother, David G. Patterson, Alamo, California.

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